

Action Item

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*To be completed by NASDA Staff:***Date Submitted:** September 8, 2011**Committee:** Marketing and International Trade☒ Recommended by Committee☐ Recommended with Amendment by Committee☐ Not Recommended by Committee☒ Adopted by NASDA☐ Adopted with Amendment by NASDA☐ Not Adopted by NASDA**Additional Notes:****Subject of Action Item:** 2011 Tri-National Agriculture Accord – a Focus on Jobs and the Economy**Submitted By:** Commissioner Todd Staples, Texas Department of Agriculture**Text of Action Item:** NASDA members endorse the theme “Neighbors in Trade – Partners in Jobs” for the 2011 Tri-National Agriculture Accord and will work to ensure the communiqué resulting from this tri-lateral conference embodies this theme through the principles outlined below.**Background & Rationale:** In 2010 agriculture generated \$365 billion in gross farm income and had a direct economic impact of almost \$600 billion on our nation’s economy. Rural America accounted for 26 million jobs during 2009 with an unemployment rate several points lower than the national average. In addition, agricultural exports during 2009 generated economic activity valued at \$281 billion, which supported 1.6 million jobs. Jobs are supported by agricultural goods entering commerce domestically and internationally.

The 2011 Tri-National Agricultural Accord represents a unique opportunity to unite policy makers from throughout North America around the common goals of influencing policies towards enabling international trade and the job growth that results from trade.

Fostering job creation and economic development should be the foremost goals of the policies and actions pursued by NASDA, its staff and members. Actions key to establishing these goals are: encouraging trade and new markets; creating a stable regulatory environment; and pursuing strategic investment.

Agriculture has played a critical role in the nation’s economic recovery by remaining globally competitive and continuing to increase production of life’s most essential necessities, which benefits trade, markets, and consumers.

Agriculture must provide leadership in economic recovery efforts by helping federal, state, and local governments throughout North America evaluate the impact of policies and decisions on:

- job creation, with the goal of establishing policies that enable private sector job growth;
- trade and new markets, with the goal of reducing or eliminating barriers to trade, market access, and consumer choice;
- stable regulatory systems, with the goal of providing predictability and accountability to regulated entities and consumers;
- strategic investment, with the goal of ensuring accountability and maximum job creation is achieved when taxpayer funds are being expended; and
- competitiveness, with the goal of evaluating mandates, requirements and stipulations on production that ultimately add unnecessary, questionable and/or avoidable costs, which are ultimately paid for by domestic consumers and limit access to markets.